

February 3, 2003

Ms. Laura Chappelle, Chair
MPSC

Dear Ms. Chappelle,

The board of Directors of Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP, Inc.) supports SBC Ameritech Michigan's efforts to gain long distance approval.

Michigan consumers have many choices for local telephone services. All one has to do is turn on the television to see a wide variety of advertisements, which demonstrate the several choices for local services, available to Michigianians. Local telephone competition is great for consumers, but it is not enough. Michigan needs to have full telecommunications competition, including the long distance market. We are losing out on valuable savings and choices because there are no incentives for long distance competition. The lack of competition among long distance providers keeps prices in Michigan higher than in other states and the consumers are paying the price. SBC's entry into Michigan's long distance market will force other telephone companies to offer competitive packages and prices.

We believe that SBC has worked very diligently to improve the quality of their services and feel they are ready to enter the long distance market. We therefore strongly support SBC Ameritech's efforts to gain long distance approval in Michigan. It is time for Michigan to join other states in the country where consumers are enjoying the many benefits of full competition. Michigan residents deserve to enjoy lower phone bills, one stop shopping and more choices.

Sincerely,

Lupita Reyes, CSW, MM, President
LATIN AMERICANS UNITED for PROGRESS, INC.